

# THE HOLD SHORT

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06DEC - 12DEC

## THE POH IS NOT A CHECKRIDE STUDY GUIDE, IT'S A DAY ONE TOOL

### The POH Is Not a Checkride Study Guide, It's a Day One Tool

One of the most common habits we see in training is students treating the Pilot's Operating Handbook (POH) as something to crack open right before a checkride. While it might feel like a "test prep" document, the POH was never designed for that purpose alone. It is your aircraft's operating manual, and it should be part of your training from day one.

The POH tells you how your specific aircraft is meant to be operated, normal procedures, limitations, emergency actions, performance data, and system descriptions. These aren't abstract concepts or "good to know" facts; they are the foundation of safe decision-making in the cockpit. Waiting until checkride prep to review them means you're missing months of opportunities to build good habits and sound judgment.

Safety of flight always comes first. Knowing where to find information in the POH, and understanding how to apply it in real time, directly affects how you manage engine temperatures, fuel planning, weight and balance, abnormal situations, and emergencies. The more familiar you are with your aircraft, the less likely you are to rely on memory, assumptions, or "this is how we've always done it."

Make the POH part of your regular routine. Review amplified procedures, reference it during ground lessons, and bring it into post-flight discussions. Ask questions about what you see and how it applies to your flying. By the time checkride prep rolls around, the POH shouldn't feel overwhelming, it should feel familiar.

Good pilots don't memorize airplanes. They understand them. And that understanding starts on day one.

## REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- **In the event of cancellation, call the office or email us asap. Messages and emails are monitored even after hours.**
- Please check for wing covers before you start your pre-flight. Do not lower flaps with covers on. Flaps can bind and crack under the fabric, and any damage will be passed on.
- **Monday night study groups will not be held from December 22nd to January 19<sup>th</sup>. They will start up again on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!**

**CASSIDY BELL- PPL**

Cassidy Bell did a thing today... and by "thing," we mean she became a private pilot. Our office coordinator turned runway-regular, and former collegiate soccer star (now proudly living the NARP life), has officially joined the PIC club!

Let's be honest: Cassidy probably couldn't tell you what day it is, what month we're in, or whether Christmas already happened, because she has been living in a world of checklists, airspace, and ACS standards for weeks. The only time she came up for air was to outrun Richard on the treadmill... and honestly, that alone deserved an endorsement.

Cassidy has been grinding harder than anyone wants to admit. Sunrise study sessions, late-night chair flying, flashcards in her lunch, quizzing herself between phone calls, she has put in the work. The discipline, the focus, the "don't talk to me, I'm memorizing cloud clearance requirements" energy... it all paid off today.

And now? Now she gets to breathe. Maybe put the books down. Maybe enjoy that shiny new freedom certificate. Maybe, just maybe, have a glass of wine and relax for five minutes before she starts instrument training. (We know her. It's coming.)

Huge congratulations to Cassidy and a shoutout to her CFI, Cory Kleidosty, for guiding her through the chaos, the confidence-building, and every steep turn in between.

Cassidy, you did it. We're proud of you. Now go celebrate like someone who just earned their wings... and please, for the love of all things GBA, put the books down for 5 minutes! You earned it.

Congratulations to Summer Benjamin for soaring through her commercial checkride this morning, adding another major achievement to her aviation journey alongside her commercial multi engine rating. Even with a 7 a.m.

checkride and an early drive in from Tahoe, she showed up focused, calm, and completely ready to go. Her dedication, professionalism, and bright pink personality make her a standout in every way, and her kindness leaves a positive impact on everyone she flies with.

The day before her checkride came with a minor curveball when her Apple Pencil went missing, but she handled it with the same levelheadedness she brings to flying. She didn't let it distract her, kept preparing, and walked into her checkride confident and well-studied.

A huge shoutout goes to her instructor Nicole for her outstanding guidance and support throughout Summer's commercial training. Their teamwork truly showed today. We are so proud of you, Summer. Congratulations on earning your Commercial Single Engine rating. Your future in aviation is bright, inspiring, and of course, a little pink. ❤️

**SUMMER BENJAMIN- CPL**

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## GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

CHECK OUT INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING  
GROUND SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT COURSES:

# GROUND SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT COURSES

**\$50 PER  
CLASS (2HRS)**  
INSTRUCTOR WILL SIGN  
OFF TRAINING IN YOUR  
LOG BOOK

**SEPTEMBER**

## 9/20 - AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

The Aircraft Systems class teaches how key systems, engine, electrical, fuel, and control function, preparing you to identify and manage potential issues for safer flight.

## 10/04 - AERODYNAMICS

This class covers how these planes fly: lift, drag, thrust, and weight, helping you understand airflow, stability, stalls, and maneuvering for better control and efficiency in flight.

## 10/18 - AVIATION WEATHER

This class teaches you how to interpret METARs, TAFs, charts, and weather patterns, helping you make informed decisions for safer flight planning and in-flight adjustments.

**OCTOBER**

## 11/01 - AIRSPACE

This class covers airspace classes, chart recognition, communication and equipment requirements, plus the weather minimums every pilot needs to know.

**NOVEMBER**

## 11/15 - CHARTS AND FLIGHT PLANNING

This class helps you master sectionals, airspace, and chart symbols, ensuring you can navigate safely and efficiently in all flight environments. This class will also cover route selection, fuel calculations, airspace considerations, and weather analysis, ensuring you can plan safe, efficient, and well-prepared flights.

## 12/06 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

This class prepares you to handle engine failures, system malfunctions, lost communications, and in-flight emergencies, ensuring quick thinking and confident decision-making in critical situations.

**DECEMBER**

## 12/20 - CHECKRIDE PREP

This class helps you master oral exam questions, flight maneuvers, and scenario-based decision-making, ensuring you are confident and well-prepared for your checkride.

From  
1-3PM

**MORE INFO:**

**GBA OFFICE, 775-856-3655**  
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